

of him because ye keep his commandments and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."

"The active members in this society" says the constitution, "shall consist of all young persons who believe themselves to be Christians;" and I want to say right here that though there may be circumstances in which a person can be a Christian and not a church member yet not one in ten thousand is in those circumstances in this country. John in his vision of the new Jerusalem says "I saw no temple there," but the world has not yet reached that stage and if the church was ordained of God to fulfil some mission obedience certainly demands co-operation in it. But there is another requirement given for active membership in the constitution, "and who sincerely desire to accomplish the objects above stated." I would like to emphasize that word *sincerely* because I fear that sometimes members are active enough but are actuated by unworthy motives and lose sight of the grand object of our society. I once heard a young lady read her quarterly report and as she told of the number of visits she had made and the good she had done I could read between the lines the words "I have done all this not for His sake but that I might have a high sounding report."

Nothing is more easily detected and nothing more severely condemned than lack of sincerity. I want no formal hand shake when I enter a door. I want no paid-for sympathy in any troubles. I want no hired tears shed over my grave nor do you, active member. Be sincere and remember that no desire can be sincere without causing the person to endeavor to accomplish that desire. Again the active member must be thoroughly consecrated. The mistake is sometimes made of using every effort to increase the size of the society and members are urged into it who are only half converted and thereby the standard of consecration is lowered. Do not do it. I once heard an active member say to a Christian, "come right into our society we don't ask anything of you" and at the earliest opportunity I sought the young man and said to him, "My brother we would like to have you in our society because we need you and Christ needs you and

you need our help and His help but we want you to understand that it means activity and energetic work."

If there is to be progress our standard must be ahead. Two or three really active members are better than twenty or thirty drones. The world is more blessed by the righteous life of one good man than by ten thousand who reach only the ordinary standard; more blessed by the sublime life of Jesus Christ than by all the world beside. You cannot make "earnest" Christians of your associate members unless your active members are first earnest Christians. If you have active members who engage in doubtful amusements, who use tobacco or gum or slang, who do not keep their "righteous indignation" bottled up, who will not sing or who refuse to act in other ways because something does not suit them, can you expect to lift others higher than this? The active member is ready to do his duty under all circumstances.

Henry Ward Beecher was once being driven up a mountain road in Pennsylvania and remarked to the driver, "That is a fine looking horse you drive. Is she as good to work as she is beautiful." "That horse" said the driver, "will do anything that any horse can and will work anywhere you put her." "How I wish," said Mr. Beecher after a moment's reflection, "How I do wish that horse was a member of my church." That is just the kind of active members we need, those who will do anything at any time or at any place the Master can or wishes to use them and do it without murmur or ostentation.

But again the active member is a personal worker. It is an encouraging sign of better days that while for the whole church the number of conversions per year reaches but one for every twenty members, the Endeavor societies report one for every ten. Pennsylvania I believe raised the cry of one for one and New York with still more enthusiasm has determined that the coming year one shall win two. With such a tendency among the young people Josiah Strong is safe in his prediction that in the new era just before us, the preaching will be done mostly by lay members and that all Christians will be actively telling the story of sal-

vation and then shall the hundred fold and the kingdom come. In our society we have a personal worker's band composed of a few consecrated workers who pledge themselves that unless hindered by some reason which they can conscientiously give to their master they will speak to some one each week about becoming a Christian and we recommend the plan to other societies because it is practical and successful.

But again. Not only is the active member a church member, a sincere Christian, a consecrated Christian, not only a personal worker adopted to every circumstance but he is a constant companion of the Master. What is the secret of sincerity? What is the secret of activity? What is the secret of power? It is the Christ life in the soul. When the two disciples saw Jesus for the first time they said, "Master where dwellest thou?" and he answered "Come and see", come into the sphere of my influence.

For three years the disciples were associate members learning of Christ and then they went forth with power and success. Therefore I say to you, have Christ as your constant companion and your character will slowly but surely be transformed into the likeness of his own and loving words and helpful deeds will flow in constant benediction. A fisherman and his family lived on the coast of Florida. One day as he was out in his boat night came on and a storm arose and he could not see to land. The harbor was full of dangerous rocks and his wife with much solicitude went to the landing place and held up a little candle and seeing it afar he steered straight for it and was saved and after that he kept a candle there every night to help another in distress and 'tis burning there to night.

You and I may not write our names on the gilded arch of fame, we may never be known very far away from home, but it may be ours as an ordinary active member to hold up a candle in some obscure place and guide some wanderer home. The mission of the society must be worked out through you as active members. The standard you maintain and the spirit you manifest will mould the effects of the society. I leave with you a sentiment which has been a great help to me.

"I am but one  
But I am one.  
I cannot do everything  
But I can do something.  
What I can do

It is my duty to do  
And by the grace of God I will do,

Hiawatha, Kans.,